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SOURCE Jen-min Jih-pao.OUTLINES NEW TRADE NETWORK IN HOPEH

30 July (Hsin-shua) -- In a move toward greater flow of commodities between urban and rural areas, state-operated industry has secured the cooperative efforts of private industry and trade.

At present, there are 441 trading agencies in Hopeh, including small organizations of branch agencies and business firms, dealing in government-controlled local products such as food, general merchandise, salt, coal, etc. There are 8,031 village, provincial, special district, and hsien cooperatives also engaged in this trading. Data from the urban centers of T'ang-shan, Shih-chia-chuang, Pao-ting, and Ch'ing-huang-tao, and from nine hsien trading centers, including Kan-tan and Lin-ch'ing, indicate that there are 535 warehouses in the province, operated by 3,300 merchants. In addition, 2,300 basic markets have been reorganized within the province.

In the small trading centers, 1,600 municipal control committees have been established, with 110,000 cadres and tradesmen. In the more important centers, the old temple societies have been revived and developed as places of exchange.

The Hopeh Provincial Transportation Corporation has set up piers, transportation warehouses, and truck stops at many places along the rivers, roads, and communicating highways, and has assembled more than 10,000 trucks, together with a large number of wooden boats, pushcarts, donkey carts, etc.

This trade network handles 102 varieties of local products, which represent 19.62 percent of the general farm income. In 1950, 88.87 percent of these goods were sold within the province. A large amount of industrial commodities from outside areas has also come into the farming villages for sale.

During the spring, provincial trading corporations supplied more than 57,000 bolts of fine cloth, 160 cattles of white sugar, 48,000 tons of coal, 38,000 piculs of salt, and 100,000 cattles of bean cake to the farmers in the province.

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